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Conclude

b) at least one nucleic acid sequence which encodes an active compound, wherein said active compound is endogenous to mammals, operably linked to;

c) at least one nucleic acid sequence which encodes an amino acid sequence cleavable specifically by a protease which is released from a mammalian cell, operably linked to;

→ d) at least one DNA sequence which encodes a polypeptide which is bound (by a peptide bond) to said active compound by said cleavable amino acid sequence and inhibits the activity of said active compound, and wherein said nucleic acid component c) does not naturally occur as operably linking said nucleic acid sequence b) to said nucleic acid d).

REMARKS

Claims 19, 21, 23 and 25 are currently pending and active in this case. With regard to the Examiner's refusal to agree to rejoin claim 19 with claims 21, 23 and 25, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this decision. Specifically, according to MPEP § 821.4, where a product claim has been elected for prosecution and found allowable, "withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim **will be rejoined.**" (emphasis added) Here, claim 19 is process claim that will depend from and include all of the limitations of the product claim (claim 25). Therefore, upon a finding of allowability of claim 25, rejoinder of claim 19 with the other claims of group III is mandated by the MPEP and U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Procedure. The Examiner's acknowledgment thereof is respectfully requested.

I. PRIORITY DATE

The present application is a divisional of USSN 09/008,308, which was filed January 16, 1998 and which claimed the benefit of priority of DE 197 01 141.1, having a filing date of January 16, 1997. A copy of the priority document can be found in the